BLIND SPOT

Volume 2 Issue 8 December 2002 $0.00 independent, commercial-free news for K-W and area

independent media centre

Three years of Indymedia

Eighteen languages, six continents

The resistance remains global. Three years into our shared experiments in open publishing, a growing number of Indymedia centers around the world continue to seek out and mobilize media forms which dramatically alter the balance of power between multinational corporations and grassroots community organizing.

With a bit of coding, some cheap equipment, and the commitment of many dedicated volunteers, we have set up participatory websites providing news and commentary in eighteen languages, across six continents. Our work extends beyond the bounds of the Internet, through local media production centers, radio networks, community newspapers, film and video.

On November 24 1999, a trans-Pacific collaboration brought this website into existence in Seattle. In the three years since, Indymedia's global network has grown rhizomatically, crossing national borders without difficulty. Locating the silences where social and economic injustices are perpetuated, IMC journalist/activists challenge information monopolies based on wealth and power.

This is only the beginning.

IMC Ontario

The Ontario.indymedia.org website serves all of Ontario, although there are seperate sites for Ottawa, Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Windsor.

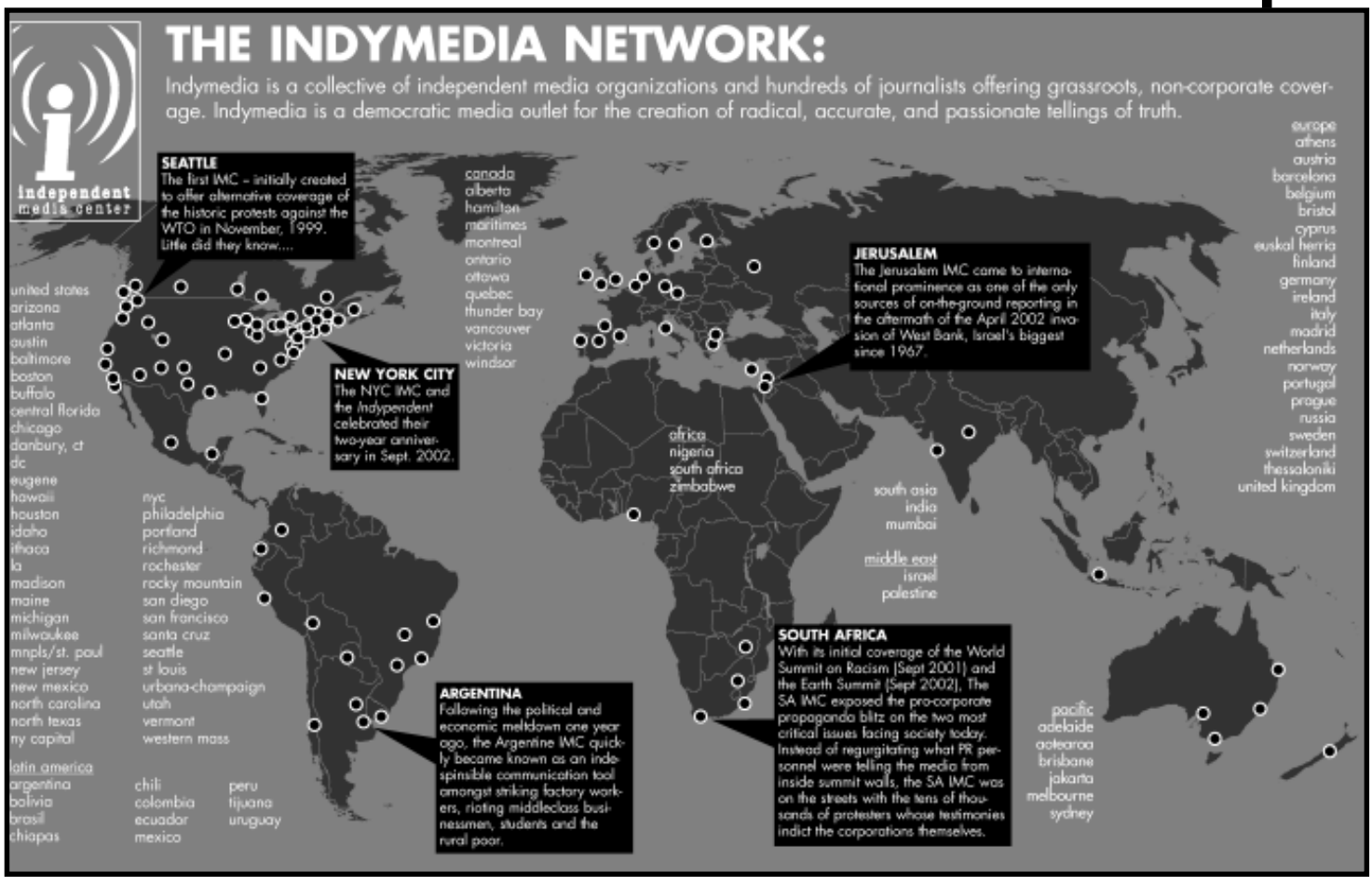
'Open Publishing' Policy

Every article or comment people post goes directly to the website. There's no editor authorizing any of these posts.

More Open Editorial Collective

To involve more people, we will be changing our website so that our editorial policy and processes are more open, transparent and participatory.

Blind Spot archives online: ontario.indymedia.org/blindspot



OUR PAPER

Blind Spot is the print project of the Grand River IMPACT group — Independent Media and Public Advocates Collaborating Together.

Blind Spot is an independent participatory media that provides community-based reporting and critical analysis on social and environmental justice issues and current events.

Our objective is to promote diverse expression, action and community involvement.

ONLINE

IMPACT.INDYMEDIA.CA

Current issues as well as the archives are available on the web site in .pdf file format, for easy printing with Adobe Acrobat.

Receive email announcements of all new publications when they are put out, by subscribing to any of these three email lists:

- ★ the WPIRG announce list
- ★ the KW-announce list
- ★ the IMC-ontario-announce list

OR: ask to receive our publications via fax

SUBSCRIBE / DONATE

Any donation of $25 or more entitles you to receive a one-year (ten-issue) subscription. To make donations ($10 or more receives a charitable tax receipt), send a cheque, payable to "OPIRG" with "imc-waterloo" in the memo line, to: WPIRG; SLC 2139; University of Waterloo; Waterloo, ON; N2L 3G1.

PRINT COPIES

If you have access to a photocopier, please consider using it to make multiple copies of this paper, and of the community event listings. You can then either:

- ★ post them up in public locations
- ★ pass them out to people
- ★ leave in a pile for people to pick up

CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome submissions of stories, story ideas and leads, notices and event announcements. Our monthly deadline is before the last weekend of the month. We also welcome volunteers in all areas of our work.

CONTACT US

Phone: (519) 244-1140
Email: *impact@indymedia.ca*
or *imc-waterloo-print@indymedia.org*

Community editorials

We invite submissions of less than 100 words (although we will still publish longer ones online)
We value self-authored editorials over 'secondhand' excerpts, but welcome submissions of both

My goal, as a lobbyist for the imagination, is to help inspire people to become very disciplined about what images they entertain in their imaginations. To seek out the images that inspire them to exercise their willpower for their own highest good.

So what about you, beauty and truth fans? How will you use your treasure in the months and years to come?

— Rob Brezny
see *www.freewillastrology.com* for more

According to Chomsky, unending war is essential for radical nationalists. It's the strategy of creating patriotism through fears of external enemies.

As motivation, and to underline our responsibilities, Chomsky stressed that the government acts through the people. If every person took the time to voice their discontent and struggle to educate, organize, and demonstrate against injustices, change may be accomplished. It's a method that has "achieved a lot in the past," said Chomsky, "and there's no reason it won't in the future."

— Stephanie Holliday
in ECHO WEEKLY *www.echoweekly.com*

If we understood our own media old and new, these confusions and disruptions could be programmed and synchronized. The very success we enjoy in specializing and seperating functions in order to have speed-up, however, is at the same time the cause of inattention and unawareness of the situation. It has ever been thus in the Western world at least. Self-consciousness of the causes and limits of one's own culture seems to threaten the ego structure and is, therefore, avoided. Nietszche said understanding stops action, and men of action seem to have an intuition of the fact in their shunning the dangers of comprehension.

— Marshall McLuhan
from the book *Understanding Media*

Self-observation is the process of seeing the interaction of ourselves and others, and recognizing that the ways other people behave with us has something to do with the way we behave to them. We cannot *make* another person be different, but when we do something different ourselves, the old dance can no longer continue as usual.

— Harriet Lerner
from the book *The Dance of Anger*

Blind Spot and IMPACT news

Outreach

The more people we can reach with this paper and our printed Community Event Listings, the better. We urge you to post pages somewhere people will see them.

Every month we fax out the paper and listings to various local organizations and locations. Ask us to be included in this sendout.

We also need volunteers to help with outreach, in both the creation and distribution of promotional material, and the approaching (by phone and/or in person) of local community groups and organizations to build symbiotic, sharing and lasting relationships.

NOTE: there are no printed event listings this month. Visit CommunityEvents.ca instead.

"How-to" Media Toolkit

We are looking to build a set of resources to help all people access, use and be the media. We're looking for resources (both online and hard-copy) as well as people to spearhead this media empowerment project.

Blind Spot Editorial Committee

To ensure community representation and diversity in the stories we report on, we are asking people from various backgrounds and involvements in communities to join our editorial committee and provide input on Blind Spot's production process.

K-W May Day march continues in courts

ontario.indymedia.org # 13473

Two people who were arrested at the May Day demonstration in downtown Kitchener on May 4 are appearing in court, facing a variety of charges including assault police with intent to resist arrest, intimidation and several breaches of bail and probation. Davin Charney and Julian Ichim were participating in the march against the city's gentrification policy, and feel these charges are an attempt by the police and the city to criminalize dissent and target street level organizers.

The court proceedings begin at 10 a.m. on December 4 at the courthouse at 200 Frederick St. in courtroom 7. The KW Youth Collective is calling on all supporters to attend the trial; if anyone was there during the march who would make a good witness, they can contact the KW Youth Collective at 578-1425 or youth_space@hotmail.com.

May Day complaint dismissed

ontario.indymedia.org # 13498

A complaint made against police actions at the May Day demonstrations was dismissed by Waterloo Regional Police. The complainant, Greg Macdougall, has requested a review of the complaint by the Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services.

The police investigation determined that Sergeant J. Bonikowsky had lied when asked for his badge number (responding "four"), but that did not constitute discreditable conduct. Allegations of police intimidation were countered with police statements that the complainant, an Indymedia reporter, was intimidating police by asking them questions with a microphone. Police cooperation with Elements nightclub security staff in making arrests and in restraining the crowd was deemed to be outside of the range of the investigation.

Police assault Charney?

ontario.indymedia.org # 13421

Davin Charney alleges he was the victim of police assault when he was arrested by police at 1 a.m. on November 8. This included "a heavy blow with a closed fist on the back of my head in the soft spot immediately above my neck," "punching me directly in the face," and "at least 5 or 6 very painful kicks that landed in the top and middle part of my back" while he was pinned on the ground. He also alleges sexual misconduct during the strip search that occurred at the station.

The non-association conditions Charney was being arrested for stemmed from the May Day demonstration, and had been eliminated in October, nearly a month prior to this incident. The police continued with the arrest although he tried to inform them the conditions were no longer valid. At the station, the charges were changed after police determined the conditions were no longer in effect.

Charney visited St. Mary's hospital at 4:15 a.m. after being released by police to have his injuries assessed and recorded by a physician. He was unable to attend work that day due to his lack of sleep and his injuries. When he was released by police, he was told he was a free man; he asks, "How can I be a free man when police officers can falsely arrest me, beat me, and then charge me with assault?"

Charney has filed charges against the police.

For background on the KW May Day demonstrations:

- **visit Ontario.indymedia.org**
- **click on 'Older Features'**
- **scroll down to May 22: "KW May Day aftermath"**

Timothy Findley

Man of conscience

by Ron Welker
ontario.indymedia.org # 13590

Born into privilege as the son of Massey-Harris President Thomas Findley, actor/writer Timothy could have grown up to be yet another scion of Toronto's elitist Rosedale Establishment.

Yet even his serious Presbyterian father who became President in 1917 of what was then the largest farm-machinery manufacturer in the British Empire, had introduced progressive labour policies to Massey-Harris, modern shop practices, a shorter workweek, rest and smoking rooms, a cafeteria, trained nurses, and first-aid facilities.

Timothy Irving Frederick Findley — "Tiff" to almost all who knew him — was born on 30 October 1930.

His death on 20 June 2002 marks the end of a larger-than-life member of the Canadian Arts community.

As a member of the Stratford Festival Theatre's inaugural acting company 50 years ago, he went on to become a writer of great prominence.

Briefly married to a woman in 1958, he was devastated by a courtroom judge who at that time was able to tell him without impunity that as a homosexual, Tiff was "not a man."

During this turbulent period of his life, he would wake up in hotel rooms without knowing how he got there. His dark visions and doubts were to find a therapeutic release in his writing.

An openly gay man in a relationship since 1962, novelist Jane Urquhart says that Bill Whitehead and Timothy Findley had "the longest marriage that I know of with the exception of my parents."

With his novels, he showed the greatest sensitivity to the plight of psychiatric patients and he was a "Dr. Schweitzer" advocate of environmental concerns to save and protect our wildlife.

In his novel Headhunter, the pioneer author Susanna Moodie meets with the character Lilah Kemp in the bowels of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre. Findley was telling us that at the end of the 20th century, it was evident that something had gone terribly wrong with the human psyche, since we were trying to destroy ourselves.

Findley and partner William Whitehead were among the first volunteers at Toronto's Casey House, an AIDS Hospice. Margaret Atwood has noted that, "He was the second person to head up PEN Canada, in aid of imprisoned writers, just after we started it. His contributions in aid of the large In Aid Of — the eternal In Aid Of — have been legion."

She aptly concludes, as should we all, "thank you, Tiff, for the courage, for the insistence, for the dedication; thank you for the generosity; thank you for letting all of those compelling maniacs out of your mind. Thank you for opening so many doors."

Story Shorts

FROM THE ONTARIO INDEPENDENT MEDIA CENTRE AND OTHER SOURCES

ONTARIO.INDYMEDIA.ORG

Travel Advisory for Muslims

www.canadianislamiccongress.com

The Canadian Islamic Congress has issued an urgent travel advisory to all Muslims — those residing in Canada, as well as those living abroad — to avoid travel to the U.S.

Landed immigrants, Commonwealth passport-holders, and those holding international student visas are particularly vulnerable to delay, detention, and possible expulsion under the newly implemented American NSEERS, or National Security Entry and Exit Registration System.

CIC President Mohamed Elmasry: "The U.S. is not safe for Muslims right now. Muslims are being humiliated, intimidated, and treated as criminals at American border crossings — and this is all because of their religion, appearance, dress, names, or where they were born."

Diversity Watch

www.diversitywatch.ryerson.ca

Diversity Watch is a unique site in Canada because it uses journalistic resources to examine news coverage of several ethnocultural and religious communities, and because it offers practical help—background, sources, and story ideas—to assist journalists who want to achieve better coverage of diversity.

This website was conceived by John Miller, director of newspaper journalism at Ryerson. It stems from his belief that ignorance, not racism, is mainly responsible for the stereotypical coverage of visible minorities in the Canadian media.

Guatemalan Coffee House raises money for hospital

ontario.indymedia.org # 13584

The K-W Youth Collective and the West Guatemala-Canada Solidarity Network hosted a coffee house fundraiser for Bethania hospital in Northwest Guatemala. The event was held at the Spot — a youth drop-in centre in downtown Kitchener, which organizes youth and others around important social and environmental justice issues. About 60 people attended.

White Ribbon Campaign

www.whiteribbon.ca

The WRC is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge never to commit, condone nor remain silent about violence against women.

November 25 is theInternational Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women. December 6 is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

OCAP activist singled out

ontario.indymedia.org # 13342

In the James Flaherty eviction trial of OCAP members, the Durham Crown has chosen to drop the charges against most people. Mohawk activist, Shawn Brant, however, has been singled out for some very ugly special attention. The Crown is simply arguing that any and all 'wrongdoing' that is connected with the event can and should be laid at Shawn's feet. His lawyer, Peter Rosenthal, stresses that 'no evidence was produced that Shawn Brant damaged anything in the office, yet it is suggested that he should be held responsible for the conduct of others present'.

OTHER HEADLINES:

Buy Nothing Day celebrations

ontario.indymedia.org # 13552
also see www.adbusters.org

Round up of anti-war events in Canada, November 15 - 17

ontario.indymedia.org #13260, 13117, 13195

Greenpeace demands removal of articles from IMC Ontario

ontario.indymedia.org # 13092

To see listings of all postings from any one media (pictures, video, audio, or text), click on the respective icon at the top of the newswire.

AUDIO:

(type in the article ID number to listen)

Rocco Galatti on North American anti-terror legislation (13541)

Noam Chomsky on the looming war in Iraq and more (13319)

Naomi Klein: Fences and Windows (13102)

Canada Columbia Solidarity Campaign (13084)

"Media" Hip Hop: Think Globally Act Locally (13385)

My Life in the Cuban Revolution (13158)

Enrique Oltuski participated in the Cuban Revolution as a fighter in the urban underground on "the plains". He lived two lives: as a Shell Oil executive and member of the Rotary Club — and as the leader of a cell which provided logistical and financial support to the revolutionaries in the mountains.

Resisting the FTAA from Quito to Montreal (12980)

A look at the October 31st Hemispheric day of action against the FTAA. Live sounds from the streets of Montreal to a live report from Justin Ruben in Quito.

IS THERE A STORY YOU'D LIKE TO SEE FEATURED NEXT MONTH? WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPORT ON A STORY?

TELL US: (519) 244-1140 / IMPACT@INDYMEDIA.CA